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Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest Now Accepting Entries

BOSTON – Did you snap a great picture of kids picking strawberries last summer? Or maybe your camera captured a herd of dairy cows on sunny hillside, or the vibrant color of a cranberry harvest in the fall. With a wealth of farm and horticultural products and landscapes to choose from, these are just a few of the possibilities for amateur photographers competing in the 2007 Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest. The deadline for submissions is June 1, and winning entries will be published in the 2008 Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar.

The contest and calendar are sponsored by the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources (DAR), Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc., and the US Dept of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Images featured in the 2007 calendar include sheep grazing on Martha's Vineyard, ripe apples in Northboro, hens in Harvard, day lilies in Clinton, and a Hatfield pumpkin field. For all of last year's winners, see www.mass.gov/massgrown.

"Photographers should keep all seasons of the year in mind when submitting photos, since we'll choose a winning photo that best depicts Massachusetts agriculture in each of the 12 months," Acting DAR Commissioner Scott Soares said. "Once again, we're hoping to feature images that illustrate the wide diversity of Massachusetts farms, crops, and agricultural products throughout the seasons."

The Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar will also feature facts and figures about Bay State agriculture, horticulture and conservation. Information about how to order the calendar will be announced on www.mass.gov/massgrown in the fall, and calendars will also be available at selected public events.

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In addition to having their photos published and credited in next year's calendar, winning photographers will be invited to a ceremony at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in Springfield in September (with fair tickets included), and will receive complimentary copies of the 2008 calendar.

The following contest rules apply:

- 1) All photos must depict an aspect of Massachusetts agriculture or horticulture. Photos must have been taken in Massachusetts within the past three years.
- 2) Entrants must not be professional photographers (photography as a primary source of income), and may only submit their own original photographs.
- 3) All entries must be prints no smaller than 4x6 inches and no larger than 8x10 inches. Slides and digital photos should also be submitted as prints. Original negative, slide or digital files should be available upon request. Photos must not be framed or mounted.
- 4) Entrants may submit up to five photos each.
- 5) On an index card or paper, type or print the following information and attach with tape to the back of each photo (please do not write directly on the back of the photo or use staples or paper clips, since this will damage the photo):
 - Entrant name
 - Address
 - Telephone number
 - Where the photo was taken and information relating to the subject
 - Month and year photo was taken
- 6) Fill out and send the entry form (available at www.mass.gov/massgrown) along with photos to:
Photo-Contest 2007
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114-2151

For questions about the contest, contact Rick LeBlanc at (617) 626-1759 or Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us.

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